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Elementary Swedish Grammar, combined with exercises, reading lessons and conversations, by Henri Fort. London, 1901. Pp. iv + 169.

The author of this book has aimed to present in graded lessons the main facts of Swedish inflexions and syntax. Illustrative sentences and exercises in Swedish accompany each lessons (with connected text after the tenth lesson) and I think it may be said that the author has been very successful in the selection of his sentences; rare words and unusual forms have been kept in the background and the student is familiarized with those things which characterize every-day, cultured spoken Swedish. The grammar suffers, however, from two very great defects, namely, in the manner in which the phonology is presented and in that it retains the old division of Swedish nouns into three genders. These defects are especially to be regretted since the book otherwise is much the most serviceable grammar for class use that we have. For the Swedish inflexions the book will, with the readjustment of nouns on the basis of four genders, be found to be a very useful book. The four gender division will also affect the rules for the article and the adjective, and of course the rules for gender will have to be modified.

In the phonology some of the mistakes are due to the fact that the author, a Frenchman, has used French spelling to represent the sound and that the revised English edition does not consistently substitute the corresponding English spellings. Some of the statements that are faulty or misleading will here briefly be noted:

Page 1. The name of *g* is *ge* (*gay* without the *vanish*) not *yay*. The vowels *e* and *i* do not have any *vanish* as *a* and *e* in English. *Q* is called *ku* (not *kü*) and *z*, *szetah*. *Oh* as the name of *h* is of course a misprint for *ho* (*haw*, *hø*).

Page 2. We should have preferred the terms 'back' and 'front' in the discussion of the vowels under a) and b). The statements under A are not exact enough. When long, *a* has a deeper sound than that of *a* in 'father,' and is furthermore slightly rounded. Swedish long *a* is very near that of Bavarian *a* in MACHEN, or approximately halfway between *a* in 'father' and *aw* in 'law'; as commonly pronounced in central (and literary) Swedish it is slightly more rounded at the end than in the beginning (= *aq*, *a°*).

Short *a* in Swedish is entirely unrounded as in German, the corners of the mouth being drawn back. *E* has the sound of *ai* in 'sail' but without the vanish. Long *i* and *o* are also of course pure sounds.

The statement under *o* is unnecessarily elaborated. Swedish *o* has three sounds: 1), a sound halfway between European *o* and *u*. 2), slightly more open, being German *o* in *rod* shortened, though not quite so open. 3), open *o* as in English 'short, dong.' This last one is the characteristic short *o* and in Swedish quite short (as German *o* in *Gott*). The first value *o* has especially in stressed syllables; it is the characteristic long *o* in Swedish.

It is a mistake to say that the sound of short *u* is like *oo* in 'room,' in which case it would be identical with the sound of *ö* which is more correctly defined by the author as the sound of *oo* in 'soon.' The sound defined is that of *u* in South Swedish dialects but not that of Central Swedish. The tongue is lowered and drawn slightly farther back in pronouncing Swedish *u* than in German *u*; the sound is about halfway between German *u* and *o*.¹ Now long *u* is not the completely palatalized *u* of French *pur*; the tongue position is only halfway from that of European *u* to that of *u* in French (*ü* in German).

Swedish *y* is also more fronted than German *ü* (it is nearer *i*). Swedish *å* is pronounced something like *oa* in 'load' but in place of the vanish going from *o* to *u* it goes from *ø* to *o*, not *fro^uga* then but *fro^øga*. The short *a* of course has no vanish: it is *o* as in German *toll* (*i. e.* it is the same as open *ö*).

The quality of the two *ä*-sounds is not governed by their strength. *Ä* is everywhere open, having the ordinary open *a* sound of 'man' regularly; before *r* however, it has a very broad open sound, broader than *a* in 'cars.'

Page 4. Under *C* it would have been sufficient to say that *c* has the sound of *s* before *e*, *i* and *y*, (and *ä*), elsewhere it is a symbol for the *k* sound. It might also have been well to add that *c* is comparatively rare in Swedish, and that when it has the sound of *s* it is at present being replaced by *s*; when the sound of *k* it is replaced by *k*.

¹ We have the same sound in the Sogn dialect of Norwegian in such words as *tynna*, *dyr*.

Page 5. The note under 13 F is rather contradictory to the statement in 2 above it.

The statement under 14 G is unnecessarily long. The rule is that *g* has the sound of *y* in 'year' before palatal vowels in stressed syllables and after *l* and *r* in the same syllable ; elsewhere it has the sound of *g* in 'good.'

Page 6. Under *j* attention might again have been called to the silence of a consonant occurring initially in combination with it as *dj*, *gj*, *hj*, *lj*, (but not in *nj*). 17 K might be simplified as 14 G ; there would at any rate have been no reason for reversing the order in which palatal and guttural is discussed. For clearness' sake the palatal had best be given first.

In note 2 under 18 L the French spelling to represent the pronunciation of *värld* is misleading.

Page 7. 21 P. The note might further have been added, that *p* is not always mute in the combination *ps* ; it is *e. g.* pronounced in *psychologi*.

The statement under R does not convey much meaning to the beginner. In the greater part of Sweden *r* is a tongue-point trill as in Norwegian ; the velar *r* prevails in Southern Sweden. Before a dental is it a supradental forming with the dental one sound.

Page 8. In the ending *-tion*, *t* has the sound of *tsh* after *r* as well as after a vowel (25 T. b.)

The discussion of accent, §3, is rather brief. While the musical accent of Swedish (and Norwegian) is practically impossible to learn for a foreigner, some little account of it would have been eminently in place.

Page 9. 6. The allowable accent : *vaséntlig*, *ordéntlig*, *mån-átling*, might have been given.

Page 10. Gender. The Swedish language has four genders : the masculine, feminine, common and neuter. This classification is based on the substitutory pronoun used, which is *hann* for masculine nouns, *hon* for feminines, *den* for common gender nouns, and *det* for neuters. Masculine are nouns that stand for male beings ; feminine are those that stand for female beings ; other old masculines and feminines have combined into a common class, the substitutory pronoun of which is *den*. To this class Swedish grammarians give the name *réal*, for which the term 'common' may very conveniently be used. The editor's classification is the

old one into three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Among the corrections that will be made in accordance with the above are:

Page 11. §2. *En* is used as indefinite article before masculine, feminine and common gender nouns and the three of course have the same terminal article *n* or *en* (§3).

Page 13. §4. As plural terminal article *-ne* is used with masculine and common gender nouns of the second declension and nouns in *-are* of the fifth declension. *Na* may also be used with such nouns as *lärare*, pl. def. *lärarne* or *lärarena* (5th dec.) and *na* is used with nouns in *ande*.

Page 15. §3. The first declension comprises all feminine and common gender nouns in *-a*, but also a few that do not end in *a*, as *ros*, *rosor*.

Page 17. §1. 1 and 2 are to be changed so as to include common gender nouns. The ending *-nung* is also to be corrected to *-ung*.

Page 20. §1. 1 should be masculine and common gender nouns in *-ad*, *-nad*, *-skap*, and *när*. Those in *-an*, *-d*, *-t*, *-st*, *-het*, *-else* and *-ång* are of course common gender nouns, as also most of those under 3. The endings *-ik*, *-ion* and *-ur* are common gender. Under 3 it might have been stated that names of nationalities regularly go according to the 3rd declension.

Page 21. §1. a) 1. should include common gender nouns

2. should include common gender nouns.

Page 26. §1. Say masculine and common gender nouns in *-are* and *-ande*.

Page 30. §1, 3. The nouns are common gender whether they end in *-a* or *-e*.

Page 31. §3. L. The rule should include the common gender also; most of the nouns in question are of that gender. Similarly include common gender in 2 and 3.

Page 32. §5, 2. Substitute common gender for masculine.

Page 34. Gender of Substantives. Most classes included given under I are common gender. Masculines are, a) all appellations of male beings (under C this would include many of those in numbers 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 11).

Page 35. Exceptions 3 and 4, for 'feminine' substitute 'common gender.'

The list in II as in I are mostly common gender as governed by rule *a*. So on page 36, those in exceptions.

Those listed in exceptions 2 are neuters as for the use of the article, but *fruntimmer* and *kvinfolk* would be followed by the feminine substitutory pronoun *hon*. If the natural gender is masculine or feminine the corresponding substitutory pronoun is used.

Page 40. The nouns in column one are common gender as all in the second and third groups.

Page 48. Compound nouns are generally of the same gender as the last component part; for exceptions see *Modern Language Notes*, 1904, p. —, which applies to Swedish as well as to Norwegian.

The learner should note the identity of the indefinite singular of the adjective and the definite plural identical also in the fact that the masculine form may in both end in *-e*, though this is getting rare, more especially in the plural.

With the above corrections of the rules governing gender and declensions on the basis of four genders the book may be well used in as much as the four gender system only very slightly affects the adjective or article inflexions.

The way the comparison of adjectives is presented on page 54 is not the best. It would have been more exact to say that adjectives form the comparative and the superlative by adding; 1) *-are* and *-ast* respectively to the stem, or 2) *-re* and *-st* with mutation of the stem vowel. In words with final *a*, as *stilla*, the *a* suffers apocope before the comparative *-are* and the superlative *-ast*, these being the endings here, not *-re*, *-st* (as 3).

It would have been in place to give some account of the differences in use between the past article and the supine in Swedish (as, *hon är älskad*, *barnet är älskadt*, but *hon har älskat*, especially as Swedish distinguishes carefully between the two. There is nothing in the text to indicate to the student as it stands that he may not say *e. g. mannen har blifvit trott*, or *björnen är skjutit*).

The classification of strong verbs, page 72, will be rather confusing to the beginner. The grouping had best be entirely restated by the teacher on the basis of: 1) infinitives with the stem-vowel *i* followed by a consonant group; 2) infinitives with *i* followed by one consonant; 3) infinitives in *ä*; 4) infinitives in *y*; and 5) those in *a*, and 6) irregular verbs.

While it would have been desirable that the discussion of the phonology were more scientific and the subdivision of some of the grammatical classes were better and clearer, the book will be found to serve very well the purpose for which it is intended. There are so few helps available in English for the study of Swedish that this elementary grammar will certainly be welcome to teachers of the language. It is hoped that its defects will be corrected in a second edition.

GEO. T. FLOM.

Goethe über seine Dichtungen. Versuch einer Sammlung aller Äusserungen des Dichters über seine poetischen Werke. von Dr. Hans Gerhard Gräf. Theil I: Die epischen Dichtungen. Band 1, 1901; xxiii S., S. 1–492; Preis 7 Mk. Band 2, 1902; iv S., S. 493–697; Preis 9 Mk. Theil II: Die dramatischen Dichtungen. Band 1, 1903; xxii u. 443 Seiten; Preis 7 Mk. Band 2, 1904; vi u. 643 Seiten. Frankfurt a/M. Literarische Anstalt, Rütten & Löning.

Wort und Bedeutung in Goethes Sprache. von Ewald A. Boucke (*Litterar-historische Forschungen* herausgegeben von Dr. Josef Schick und Dr. M. Frh. v. Waldberg, xx Heft); Preis 5 Mk. Berlin, verlag von Emil Felber.

An Art und Umfang sehr verschieden, aber beide durch wirklichen Wert ausgezeichnet, gehören Gräfs *Goethes Äusserungen über seine Dichtungen* und Bouckes *Wort und Bedeutung in Goethes Sprache* zum Bedeutendsten, was die Goetheforschung bisher geschaffen hat.

Gräf imponiert schon äusserlich durch die Masse des Geleisteten. Bis jetzt sind vier dicke Bände erschienen, und noch sind nicht alle Dramen und nichts von der Lyrik behandelt. Aber des gewaltige Werk zeugt auch auf jeder Seite von der zuverlässigen Sorgsamkeit des Verfassers. Die berufensten deutschen Kritiker haben, soviel ich bemerkt, mit allen ihren bibliographischen Hilfsmitteln zu Gräfs Sammlungen nichts hinzugefügt und nichts daran ausgesetzt. Auch wir können nur das Gebotene mit Dank begrüßen. Gräf hat aus den verschiedensten Quellen Alles zusammengetragen, was